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The International Week

The USSR has as yet taken no formal step to raise the question of the Atlantic Pact in the General Assembly. Addition of the 'Mindszenty case, the Indonesian dispute and the Israeli membership item to the GA agenda was recommended by the Steering Committee. In the Security Council the USSR used its twenty-ninth veto to block the admission of South Korea to UN membership. The International Court of Justice held Albania liable to the UK in the Corfu Channel Case and, in an advisory opinion, held that the UN can sue on behalf of its employees injured or killed in line of duty. The US and USSR both refused to sign the high frequency broadcasting plan drawn up at Mexico City.

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Italian colonies debate opens in GA. Chances for postponing a decision on the disposition of Libya increased during the sparring connected with the opening of the Italian colonies debate in the GA Political Committee. Failure of the French to commit themselves publicly to British trusteeship in Cyrenaica reflects their desire to use this issue as a bargaining point to obtain Italian trusteeship over Tripolitania. In this respect, France has the support of some dozen Latin American nations which also plan to use Cyrenaica as a quid pro quo for Tripolitania. Already confronted with the probable opposition of the Slav and Arab blocs, the UK would, under such circumstances, find itself hard pressed to muster sufficient votes for approval of its Cyrenaican trusteeship. The British thus concluded that postponement of the disposition of Libya until 1952 might be feasible. Under their plan, the US, Italy and Egypt would serve as advisers to the present British administrators during the interim period, while annual reports on colonial administration would be submitted to the GA. Tripolitanian Arabs would find this temporary solution more palatable than Italian trusteeship while Italian bitterness over the loss of the colony would be more easily assuaged through some such participation in Libyan affairs.

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Communists will renew attack on Western armaments at Paris Congress. The 20 April World Congress of Partisans of Peace, latest in a series of such meetings, will afford Communist political and "cultural" leaders fresh opportunity to attack the Atlantic Pact and the military plans of the West. Soviet determination to exploit this Congress to the utmost is indicated by: (1) financial contributions from the Soviet and Satellite areas on a scale which is beginning to parallel their aid to the French coal strikers; (2) establishment of "initiative committees" in thirty countries to organize the widest possible participation; and (3) a preliminary meeting of the Western European delegates in Bucharest. In what appears to be a major propaganda effort to attract all individuals and organizations susceptible to Communist influence, the organizers of the Paris Congress have invited some 2000 delegates from fifty-two countries. They will seek to emphasize its "international character" by highlighting the adherence of the World Federation of Trade Unions and of such prominent non-Communists as ex-President Cardenas of Mexico and the Queen Dowager of Belgium.

Substantially the same Soviet delegation which attended the recent New York Cultural and Scientific Conference will lead the attack on the expanding Western outlay for armaments. It will stress the importance of mobilizing popular resistance to this "war menace" through world-wide establishment of organizations "for the defense of peace." Such organizations, already launched in France, will be assigned the immediate tasks of organizing "peace caravans" to Paris and of preparing national peace conferences additional to those scheduled in Italy, Canada, the UK and Mexico.

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Point Four agency proposed in UN. The recent Indian proposal to the UN Economic Development Subcommission for the establishment of a UN Economic Development Administration (UNEDA) to handle assistance under the Truman Point Four indicates a growing desire of aid recipients to call the tune. In addition to supplying technical assistance and coordinating that already available within the UN and Specialized Agencies, the proposed UNEDA would itself finance development projects where domestic resources in assisted countries were inadequate. This step to supplant the International Bank (IB) as a supplier of large-scale financial aid is probably intended to vest control over Point Four

purse strings in the recipients rather than in the suppliers of capital. It envisages granting governmental funds directly to UNEDA which would then allocate them by majority vote rather than by the IB "quota" voting procedure which is weighted in favor of the largest contributors. The probable result of this method of implementing Point Four would be to create a super-agency in which the technical assistance aspect would soon be overshadowed by growing demands for large-scale aid supplied chiefly by the US.

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Albania liable in Corfu Channel Case. In its first litigated case, the International Court of Justice has held Albania liable to the UK for casualties and vessel damage suffered in October 1946 when two British destroyers struck mines laid in Corfu Channel. The Court further upheld Britain's "right of innocent passage" on this occasion. In contrast, it condemned as an illegal intervention in Albanian waters British action in sweeping the Channel some weeks later to obtain evidence. The Court made no finding regarding who had laid the mines, but predicated Albania's responsibility on its knowledge of their existence and its failure to issue warnings. Should the parties agree to accept the jurisdiction of the Court, the ICJ will hold further hearings to fix the damages. In view of Albania's previous plea (overruled by the Court) denying ICJ jurisdiction, its voluntary submission to an assessment of damages is now most unlikely. Whether or not the UK collects its judgment, the case is an important step furthering the concept whereby national conduct may be subjected to judicial examination.

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ICJ hands down opinion on damages. The ICJ handed down an advisory opinion clarifying the juridical situation arising from the assassination of Palestine Mediator Count Bernadotte and the wrongful death of, or injury to, other personnel in the service of the UN. The Court held that the UN has an international personality, giving it capacity to sue. It also held that the UN can claim damages against any state on account of injury to its agents where such claim does not conflict with a parallel demand asserted by the national state of the injured person. The judicial establishment of national liability to the UN may, in the future, bring about more effective protection of UN personnel in the field.

IOG Notes

Possible termination of Mediator's functions. While the 11 December 1948 GA resolution empowered the SC, in its discretion, to turn over the Mediator's functions to the PCC, the SC has never done so and Mediator Bunche has continued to handle all the armistice negotiations. Bunche feels strongly that the PCC should keep its hands off these negotiations. Once, however, all the armistices have been concluded, the SC will probably terminate the office of the Mediator.

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Sobolev's return to UN unlikely. The return to the UN of Assistant Secretary General Arkady Sobolev, now on leave in Moscow, is unlikely, despite Syg Lie's recent press statement denying Sobolev's resignation. On 31 March a Soviet official, believed to be Sobolev, received approximately twelve cases of personal effects, a footlocker and several suitcases addressed to him at the Moscow Customs House. Sobolev was reportedly the Kremlin's chief official in New York.

UNCOK may establish observer groups. The UN Commission on Korea may establish military observer groups similar to those in Kashmir and Greece as a means of contributing to the security and stability of Korea following withdrawal of US and Soviet troops. In endorsing this idea, the US assumed the observers would, as technical advisers, be drawn from UNCOK member states. It may, however, be difficult for El Salvador and other small member states to find the money and men needed for the task.

Prospects dim for MFN for Japan. Because of adverse reaction of the UK, France, Belgium and probably most of the British dominions, it appears that the US will encounter great difficulty in securing satisfactory agreement on most-favored-nation treatment for Japan at the Annecy GATT Conference. Much of this opposition stems from the absence of an established Japanese exchange rate, which these countries fear may give Japanese exports an unfair competitive edge. The chief of the US delegation favors withdrawing the proposal from the GATT agenda unless UK support is obtained.

ECAFE meeting fosters US-Asian goodwill. The US engendered considerable goodwill with Indian and other Asiatic delegates at the recently concluded Bangkok ECAFE meeting both by supporting their proposal to establish a Committee on Industry and Trade and by helping to reconcile conflicting views. In contrast, the obstructive Soviet tactics, replete with warnings against Western economic imperialism, were resented by the Asiatic members as patronizing and insulting.

Committee opens FOI discussions. The GA Social Committee rejected a Soviet move to return two of the three draft conventions on "Freedom of Information" to ECOSOC for further debate. The USSR, foreseeing that its own peculiar doctrines of what constitutes freedom of information were certain to be rejected, was probably, as usual, seeking further delay.